

## California State Journal of Medicine.

Owned and Published Monthly by the

Medical Society of the State of California

PHILIP M. LLS JONES, M. D., Secretary and Editor

### PUBLICATION COMMITTEE.

Langley Porter, M.D.  
Martin Fischer, M.D.

John Spencer, M.D.  
Harry M. Sherman, M.D.

### ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS

Secretary State Society, - - -	Butler Building,
State Journal, - - -	San Francisco.
Official Register, - - -	

Telephone Douglas 2537

### IMPORTANT NOTICE!

All Scientific Papers submitted for Publication must be Typewritten.

Notify the office promptly of any change of address, in order that mailing list and addresses in the Register may be corrected.

VOL. VII

JUNE, 1909.

No. 6

### EDITORIAL NOTES.

The American Medical Association has stimulated medical organization and medical betterment in every portion of the United States, during the last ten years. To say that it has distinctly improved the standard of medical education and medical efficiency, is to put the case mildly. It has built up the foremost medical journal in the world. It has, for the past five years, steadily worked toward the clearing away of a mass of imposition, fraud, dishonesty and trickery that has been foisted upon the medical profession by grasping commercialism. In no single instance has any honest cause, any honest interest, any honest endeavor or any honest enterprise been attacked or molested; the dishonest have merely been disclosed in the nakedness of their dishonesty. But this dishonesty is wealthy; the nostrum manufacturerers, collectively, represent an enormous amount of illgotten fortune—and no small part has upon it the blood-taint. The nostrum interests have done everything in their power to stop the course of exposures in the *A. M. A. Journal*; to stop the truth-telling. At every point they have failed, and as a last resort they are now attempting to discredit the Association, through its Secretary and its Board of Trustees. They have found that they cannot fight the whole Association; they have no arguments with which to fight the work of exposure, for only the truth is told and only dishonesty exposed. Therefore they have devoted their energies to attacks upon Dr. Geo. H. Simmons, who, as Secretary, Editor and a member of the Organization Committee, has done a large part of the work

of building up the Association. What matters it that Dr. Simmons was a Homeopath, twenty-five years ago? We have many honored Homeopaths in our own State Society to-day; what would it matter if he were still a member of that school of medicine? Is it *results* that count in this world, or is it attitude and position? The latest attack is an attempt to show that Rush Medical College granted Dr. Simmons a regular degree after he had devoted but little time to actual study in that school. That was in 1891-2, a time when every school in the country was lax and when almost the full course was granted as a credit to Homeopathic graduates who had been in successful practice. Hundreds of cases might be discovered in which regular degrees had been granted in similar circumstances by prominent schools. We do not know that the facts alleged are true, but even assuming that they are, what about it? It is results that count; what a man has done; how he has made good. One is reminded of the remark attributed to Lincoln when told that General Grant drank large amounts of whiskey; he said he would like to discover the brand and send some of it to the other Union Generals. So, too, it would be a mighty good thing for the medical profession of the United States if we could find a few more Homeopaths of the same sort who obtained regular degrees in the same way. And, incidentally, it would also be a good thing if we could get rid of some disgraces to medicine who sell themselves to such unsavory interests as are attacking the Association. Do not be fooled.

And now comes "The Pacific Coast Hospital Association," "A progressive modern enterprise that combines money-making with a great public benefaction." The offices of the institution are in the Union Savings Bank Building, Oakland, and it seems to be presided over and generally managed by one McCullough Graydon. A booklet just received is most illuminating. The scheme, of course, is the same old "dollar a month" medical-treatment-contract business. This present "Association," however, interjects a somewhat novel feature into the nasty business. The booklet is a booster for the company in its efforts to sell 20,000 shares of stock at \$1.00 per share, which the promoters undertake to demonstrate will pay at least 7% and probably much more. Indeed, simple arithmetic is artfully employed to show that "on a gross income of \$60,000 per year we have net earnings of over 20% on (probable) outstanding capital. In due time this \$60,000 must become \$200,000 or even \$300,000—with net returns of 50 to 75% on the capital invested." This is indeed, to use the words of the booklet, "commercializing medical service"; it is also commercializing human life, prostituting a profession, probably robbing the poor and doing many other and various things, for is it in the range of possibility that 300,000 people in this vicinity will join such an institution—or even 30,000? We are told that the subscriber will have the very best of